

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NOS. E-21569 E-21648
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**ORDER CONSOLIDATING DOCKETS AND
ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER**

(Issued April 13, 2004)

On May 30, 2002, and July 31, 2003, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) petitions for two segments of 161,000-volt electric transmission line in Polk County, Iowa. One segment, identified as Docket No. E-21569, would run from the existing Sycamore substation in Johnston, Iowa, to the existing Ankeny substation in Ankeny, Iowa. The other segment, identified as Docket No. E-21648, would run from the Ankeny substation to a proposed new Northeast Ankeny substation. The first segment is just less than five miles; the other segment is just over five miles. The third segment of the project, which would run from the new substation in northeast Ankeny to an existing 161 kV line owned by Alliant Energy Corporation, was granted a franchise on July 22, 2003, in Docket No. E-21594.

Since the initial filings, MidAmerican has made various revisions to the petitions and filed additional information. There is one request for eminent domain in

Docket No. E-21569 and six requests in Docket No. E-21648. Nine objections to the petitions have been filed.

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 478.6 (2003), a hearing is required if objections to a franchise petition are filed or if eminent domain is requested. Therefore, the Board will assign these proceedings to a presiding officer. However, because the two segments are part of a larger project and are interrelated, the dockets will be consolidated for purposes of hearing and procedural schedule. The presiding officer will establish a procedural schedule and perform other necessary functions pursuant to 199 IAC 7.1(4). In addition, MidAmerican filed its notice of eminent domain proceedings on April 1, 2004. The presiding officer will determine whether to approve the notice.

The Board notes that Iowa Code § 478.6 provides that if a hearing is required and the proposed line is more than one mile in length, the hearing must be held in the county seat of the county at the midpoint of the proposed line. Because both segments are located in Polk County, the hearing will be held in Des Moines.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Dockets Nos. E-21569 and E-21648 are consolidated for purposes of hearing and procedural schedule and are assigned to a presiding officer pursuant to

199 IAC 7.1(4). In addition to establishing a procedural schedule and performing other necessary functions, the presiding officer will determine whether to approve the notice of eminent domain.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 13th day of April, 2004.